

**News from the City of Greenville
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For Immediate Release

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**CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT NAMED
AGENCY OF THE YEAR**

The City of Greenville Parks and Recreation Department was named “**Agency of the Year**” for the category of population 50,000 and over by the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association at their annual conference held at the Greenville Regency Hyatt. On September This was the seventh time the department has received the award in the last two decades.

The department was recognized for its development of the Wenwood Soccer Complex which was named one of ten in the USA “21st Century American Heritage Parks.” The judges also cited Greenville’s “Venture Out-Spring 2002” series which offered more than 50 new leisure activities to the community.

The City park system has 39 locations with more than 500 acres of land. It is based on a four-level approach that offers neighborhood playgrounds, five community centers, citywide athletic and speciality facilities and Greenville’s central park - Cleveland Park that connects along the river to Reedy River Falls Historic Park.

Greenville Parks and Recreation Director Paul Ellis noted that there are a number of new amenities in various stages of development. “We are working to develop a major public garden at Reedy River Falls that will feature a one-of-a-kind suspension pedestrian bridge,” he said. “And planning is underway to extend the popular bikeway in Cleveland Park downstream to Greenville Tech and upstream into West Greenville.” Recently, the City remodeled all 38 playgrounds in the City to meet the new national

safety standards.

Ellis said that the department is always looking to meet the ever-increasing variety of leisure demands. He explained, “The consistently growing use of the Timmons and Holmes Parks Disc Golf Courses has prompted the City to build an additional nine-hole disc golf course in Gower Park. We intend to begin construction this fall.”